

Lesson 15: Acts 6:1-7 Seven Chosen to Serve

Background: The apostles with all of the disciples of Jesus together.

Acts 6:1 What was the problem that the apostles had to solve in the early church? _____

Acts 6:2-4 What was the solution to this problem? _____

Acts 6:5-7 Who did the Greek-speaking believers in Jesus choose to serve their widows? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 6:1-7 Question Answers

Acts 6:1 The early church was made up of both Hebrew-speaking Jewish believers in Jesus and Greek-speaking Jewish believers in Jesus. Even though both of these groups were Jews, the Hebrew-speaking Jews may have looked down on the Greek Jews for not speaking the Hebrew language of their ancestors and for not being racially pure, because their ancestors were both Jewish and Greek. Now that Jesus, God the Son, had come and died on the cross to forgive the sins of all who trust and follow Him, there was nothing dirty or unclean about the Greek-speaking believers in Jesus, nor was there anything dirty or unclean about the Hebrew-speaking believers in Jesus. All believers in Jesus are equally loved by God. But because of their racial and cultural differences, **the Hebrew-speaking believers were not giving the Greek-speaking widows their daily food**. This was a big problem, because if a widow, a woman whose husbands had died, did not have children to take care of her, she could die from hunger. Because the church is God's family on earth, it is supposed to care for all of its members, so God the Holy Spirit, who lives in the hearts of God's people, led the apostles to a solution.

Acts 6:2-4 The apostles knew that God had called them to teach people to trust and follow Jesus, and not to spend all of their time giving out food. So instead of trying to do everything themselves, **they told the Greek-speaking believers to pick seven men to serve the Greek widows**. These men were to have good reputations for following Jesus and serving God's church family. They were also to be filled with God the Holy Spirit, Who gives wisdom and the ability to love others for God. Finally, because these men were also Greeks, no one could say that they were not giving food to certain widows because they spoke Greek and not Hebrew.

Acts 6:5-7 **The Greek-speaking believers chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus** to serve the Greek-speaking widows. All of these men were Greek-speakers, filled with the Holy Spirit, with good reputations for serving others in the church family. Today in our church family, deacons and deaconesses are men and women who have been called to lead by serving the church family, doing the important work that needs to be done everyday in the church.

Lesson 16: Acts 6:8-15 Stephen Is Seized

Background: Steven before the Jewish council.

Acts 6:8-9 Who was arguing with Stephen? _____

Acts 6:10-14 What did the men from the synagogue of the Freedmen do against Stephen? _____

Acts 6:15 How did Stephen's face look to the council when they were falsely trying him? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

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Acts 6:8-15 Question Answers

Acts 6:8-9 Stephen was one of the seven deacons chosen to serve the Greek-speaking Jewish widows in the early church. Because God was doing “great wonders and signs among the people” through Stephen, **people from the synagogue of the Freedmen, the Cyrenians, and the Alexandrians**, and those from Cilicia and Asia rose up against Stephen. These people were Greek-speaking Jews from the synagogue, a place where the Jews would meet to learn about God from the Old Testament books of the Bible. The synagogue of the Freedmen was a synagogue where freed Greek and Roman slaves who had converted to Judaism would have met. Cyrene and Alexandria were cities in Northern Africa, while Cilicia was a city in Southern Asia. When these people heard Stephen teaching about Jesus and healing people in Jesus’ name, it made them angry.

Acts 6:10-14 Because Stephen was filled with God the Holy Spirit, these men could not argue with what Stephen was teaching about Jesus and they could not deny that God was doing amazing miracles through him to confirm that what Stephen was saying was true. Because of this, **they lied about Stephen, saying that he was blaspheming against God**, saying bad things about God, and that he was teaching that Jesus would return to destroy the temple of God in Jerusalem. By telling these lies, the crowd was getting angrier and angrier at Stephen.

Acts 6:15 Because God the Holy Spirit was living inside Stephen and was working through him in order to show everyone that Jesus is God the Son, Stephen’s face shined **like the face of an angel**. The whole Sanhedrin, the council of seventy Jewish elders, knew that God was with Stephen, but they hated Jesus so much that they did not care.